

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th May 1889.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	
The Lushais ...	423	Butchers' shops in Calcutta ...	428
Afghanistan as a barrier against Russian invasion ...	ib.	The farming of cattle-pounds... ..	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		The duty of the District Board of Burdwan in regard to scarcity of water in that district ...	ib.
(a)—Police—		The slaughter-house in Ranigunge town ...	ib.
Budmashes at Sekandarnagar in the district of Mymensingh ...	ib.	Local Self-Government and the Calcutta Municipality ...	429
Theft and dacoity in the district of Burdwan ...	ib.	The Commissioners of the Berhampore Municipality ...	ib.
Robbing of female passengers in Nimtolla Street, Calcutta ...	ib.	(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		An order of the Bengal Board of Revenue ...	ib.
The present administration of justice ...	424	(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa ...	ib.	The new road from Itna to Badla in the district of Mymensingh ...	ib.
Baboo Sarat Chandra Das, Deputy Magistrate of Nowgong ...	ib.	The steamer traffic between Goalundo and Narain-gunge ...	430
The defamation cases against the <i>Gariib</i> and the <i>Dacca Prakash</i> ...	ib.	(h)—General—	
The Gocharan case in the 24-Pergunnahs district ...	ib.	Sir Stuart Bayley at Chittagong ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		The Subordinate Executive Service Resolution ...	ib.
Nil.		The financial policy of the Government of India ...	431
(d)—Education—		Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye ...	ib.
The results of the late examinations of the Calcutta University ...	425	Factory labour in India ...	ib.
The students of the Burdwan Raj College ...	ib.	Right retrenchment ...	432
The result of the University examinations ...	ib.	Baboo Pratul Chandra Chatterjee as a Judge of the Punjab Chief Court ...	ib.
University education and the University examinations ...	426	Sir Stuart Bayley in Darjeeling ...	ib.
The <i>Sanjivani</i> newspaper and the results of the B.A. examination ...	ib.	Some postal complaints ...	ib.
The results of examinations in the Presidency Circle ...	ib.	The Clerkship Examination Resolution ...	433
The results of the Entrance and First Arts Examinations ...	ib.	Mr. Outhbertson as Officiating Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal ...	ib.
Middle school scholarships in the district of Howrah ...	427	The native army of Government ...	ib.
Moral education in Indian schools ...	ib.	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
The last Entrance Examination ...	ib.	Nil.	
A ruling of the Director of Public Instruction ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The last University examinations ...	ib.	Nil.	

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the crops throughout Bengal	... 433
Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division	... 434
Distress in the Bhola sub-division	... ib.
Destruction of crops by flood	... ib.
Scarcity in Orissa	... ib.
Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division and in Behar	... ib.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Decreased rainfall in India	... 435
Unhealthiness of Berhampore town	... ib.
Englishmen and Natives	... 436

Page.

Charges against a talukdar in the Howrah district	... 436
Mr. Phillips	... ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

The Orissa Canal Service	... 437
Steamer service in the Orissa Coast Canal	... ib.
Scarcity in Orissa	... 438
The results of the middle examinations in Orissa	... ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

The working of the forest rules in Sylhet	... ib.
Public health in Shillong	... ib.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Kasipore Nibási" ...	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Ahammadi" ...	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	"Ave Maria" ...	Calcutta	.....
4	"Divákar" ...	Ditto	.....
5	"Gaura Duta" ...	Maldah	.....
6	"Purva Bangabási" ...	Noakholly	.....
7	"Purva Darpan" ...	Chittagong	700	
8	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi" ...	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Arya Darpan" ...	Calcutta	102	10th May 1889.
10	"Bangabási" ...	Ditto	20,000	18th ditto.
11	"Burdwan Sanjibani" ...	Burdwan	302	14th ditto.
12	"Chandra Vilásh" ...	Berhampore	250	
13	"Cháruvartá" ...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	13th ditto.
14	"Chattal Gazette" ...	Chittagong	800	
15	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	1,200	19th ditto.
16	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	885	17th ditto.
17	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur	.....
18	"Garib" ...	Dacca	3,000	
19	"Grambási" ...	Uluberia	800	18th ditto.
20	"Gaurab" ...	Ditto	.....
21	"Guru Charana" ...	Calcutta	.....	16th ditto.
22	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	15th ditto.
23	"Jagatbási" ...	Calcutta	750	
24	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	508	
25	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	350	
26	"Navavibhákar Sádharani" ...	Calcutta	600	20th ditto.
27	"Prajá Bandhu" ...	Chandernagore	995	17th ditto.
28	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	600	17th ditto.
29	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakinfa, Rungpore	205	
30	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	15th ditto.
31	"Samaya" ...	Ditto	3,806	17th ditto.
32	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	4,000	18th ditto.
33	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	800	12th ditto.
34	"Santi" ...	Calcutta	3,723	22nd ditto.
35	"Saráswat Patra" ...	Dacca	300	
36	"Som Prakásh" ...	Calcutta	1,000	20th ditto.
37	"Srimanta Saudagár" ...	Ditto	.....
38	"Sulabha Samáchar o Kusadaha" ...	Ditto	800	17th ditto.
39	"Surabhi o Patáka" ...	Ditto	700	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
40	"Dainik o Samachar Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	19th to 23rd May 1889.
41	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	800	18th to 23rd ditto.
42	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	17th to 23rd ditto.
43	"Banga Vidyá Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	20th May 1889.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	20	
46	"Kshtriya Pratika" ...	Patna ...	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Aryavarta" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	11th ditto.
48	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	.....
49	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,653	16th ditto.
50	"Sar Sudhanidhi" ...	Ditto ...	500	13th ditto.
51	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto ...	4,500	
52	"Hindi Samachar" ...	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Jam-Jahan-numa" ...	Calcutta ...	250	17th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
54	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah ...	300	
55	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
56	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....
57	"Gauhur" ...	Calcutta ...	196	20th ditto.
58	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar ...	150	
59	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	.....
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
60	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ...	Calcutta ...	340	19th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
61	"Urdu Guide" ...	Calcutta ...	212	
URIA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
62	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
63	"Taraka and Subhavarta" ...	Ditto ...	.....
64	"Pradip" ...	Ditto ...	.....
65	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
66	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	444	27th April and 4th May, 1889.
67	"Balasore Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	205	25th April and 2nd May, 1889.
68	"Urya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	600	24th April and 1st May, 1889.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
69	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
70	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	450	13th ditto.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sulabh Samachar o Kushdaha*, of the 17th May, says that Government will not have done its whole duty if, for the purpose of putting down the Lushais, it only stations troops in the country inhabited by them and makes roads for facilitating communication with their country. If it be Government's desire that the Lushai raids should stop effectively and for ever, it should establish free schools in their country and civilise them by educating them in those schools.

2. The *Darus Saltanat*, of the 19th May, says that the attempt to keep Afghanistan as a barrier against Russian invasion has led to the expenditure of a very large sum of money. No more money should be spent for that purpose.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Varta*, of the 13th May, complains of outrages by *budmashes* at Sekandarnagar, in the Netrakona sub-division of the Mymensingh district. On receiving a petition on this subject from the villagers, the Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona directed the Sub-Inspector of Police of the Badla thana to go to Sekandarnagar and to submit a report. The Sub-Inspector came to the village and made a report. But nothing more was done in the matter although all the villagers, high and low, identified some persons as the perpetrators of the outrages. The *budmashes* therefore feel so encouraged that people find it difficult to protect life, property, and honour against their attacks. The *budmashes* are particularly hard upon those who try to put them down. On the 24th Chaitra last, 20 or 25 of them attacked the house of Baboo Dwarikanath Chakravarti. On the 7th Baisakh last they carried off a large quantity of stacked corn from the field of Lokanath Chakravarti. On the night of the 9th Baisakh last they set fire to a room in the house of Chandranath Chakravarti. The Magistrate is earnestly requested to attend to the matter.

4. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, says that theft, dacoity and highway robbery are rife in many places in the district of Burdwan, where people consider it dangerous to go out after dusk. The rise in the price of rice may account for this state of things. The new District Superintendent of the Burdwan Police is requested to direct the officers under him to be on the alert.

5. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 20th May, says that one occasionally hears of the robbing of solitary passengers on the maidan by Eurasian vagrants and by soldiers. But the writer has now heard from a reliable source that similar robberies are committed within the heart of the town without being noticed by the police. A band of eight or ten Bengali youths of respectable families hold the Nimtolla Street from the spot where it joins the Beadon Street to a little way beyond either singly or in gangs from 4 A.M. till daybreak, and rob such female passengers as they find going to the river to bathe. A few days ago one of this gang tried to rob one of these female passengers, but some other women coming up at the time, had to run away baffled.

SULABH SAMACHAR-O
KUSHDAHA,
May 17th, 1889.

DARUS SALTANAT,
May 19th, 1889.

CHARU VARTA
May 13th, 1889.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
May 14th, 1889.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
May 20th, 1889.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
May 14th, 1889.

6. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, says that the number of subordinate judicial officers in the service of Government being small, each officer has often to perform the work of two such officers. Those who are of a conscientious frame of mind do this heavy work thoroughly and ungrudgingly, but those who are not conscientious always create or make use of pretexts to shorten their work. In their anxiety to show a clear file, many Munsifs strike off cases on the flimsiest ground. If on the day fixed for the hearing of a case the witnesses do not appear, or if the parties to a case do not answer at the first call, or if it is found that a copy of the plaint has not been filed in court, cases are struck off.

By this indiscriminate striking off of cases, suitors are put to the greatest inconvenience. And justice requires that in such cases they (the suitors) should be paid the costs of the institution of their suits less the amount which the courts may consider due to their *amla* as a sort of commission.

The officers who strike off cases in this way ought to bear in mind that by so doing they defeat the very purpose for which their services are engaged by Government, and make Government and the judicial administration unpopular in the eyes of the people.

There was a time when the people of this country loved the English judicial system and felt respect for English justice. But that time is gone, and with it the old respect for English justice is also gone. As the complexity of the law, the subtlety of the lawyer and the perversity of the judicial officer are increasing, the courts are going down in the estimation of the people. It, therefore, behoves the dispensers of justice in this country to exercise the powers of their office with due care and caution, and to shape their conduct more in accordance with the spirit than with the letter of the law.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper says that no one is satisfied with the way in which Baboo Jadu Nath Basu, Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa, administers justice. Jadu Baboo is a man of whimsical disposition, and is specially unfit for judicial work. He has either no knowledge of the law or he wilfully disregards the law.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
May 15th, 1889.

8. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 15th May, contradicts the charge of favouritism published in its issue of the 1st May against Baboo Sarat Chandra Das, Deputy Magistrate of Nowgong (see Weekly Report on Native Papers for week ending the 11th May 1889, paragraph 7.)

BANGABASI,
May 18th, 1889.

9. The *Bangabási*, of the 18th May, says that it has already expressed the opinion that it would be better not to try at Dacca the defamation cases instituted by the brothers Ruplal and Raghunath Das of that place against the *Garib* and the *Dacca Prakásh*. The recent conduct of the notorious Police Superintendent of Dacca, Mr. Clark, towards one of the accused, Gobinda Chandra Raya, makes the necessity for trying the cases at some other place than Dacca more clear than ever. Gobinda Chandra produced two muktears as sureties, but Mr. Clark refused to accept that security.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 20th, 1889.

10. The *Dainik o Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 20th May, says that Lieutenant Francis of the Artillery Corps went with a few sepoys to the village Gocharan, in the 24-Pergunnahs district, to make a survey.

At his order, the sepoy forcibly brought in a cartman and detained him with his cart in the camp. This created a great sensation in the village, and the boy zemindars of the village, Purnachandra Roy Chowdhury and Jogendra Nath Roy Chowdhury, went to Lieutenant Francis's camp to remonstrate against the seizure of the cartman. The Lieutenant was then out hunting. An altercation ensued between the zemindars and the sepoy, and from words the two parties came to blows. Shortly afterwards the young zemindars and their men returned home. Lieutenant Francis has himself admitted in court that, on hearing of this, he made an attack on the zemindar's house, forcibly arrested some people, and exercised every possible zulum, and yet the Lieutenant has been found innocent by the Joint-Magistrate and the Judge. The zulum exercised was such that the villagers were seized with consternation, while the Lieutenant and his sepoy thus escaped with impunity. The boy zemindars were sentenced by the Joint-Magistrate to three months' imprisonment, a punishment which, on appeal to the Judge, was reduced to 18 days' imprisonment. This is not justice. The Lieutenant and his myrmidons would have been taught a good lesson if they had committed such oppression in any other country, say England. It is true that the Bengalis are weak. But even the weak Bengali has arms and legs, minds and hearts, anger and indignation. And if they have no other weapons, thanks to their bamboo clumps, they will never want for clubs and staves. If the Lieutenant and his sepoy had been soundly thrashed at Gocharan, would not guns have been sent against the villagers from the fort?

The writer is not only sorry, but also alarmed at the decision passed in this case. If such injustice is not remedied, a stigma will attach to the name of the English Government.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 10th May, says that the large percentage of failures in the late examinations of the Calcutta University this year must be due either to deterioration in the quality of the instruction imparted in schools or to increased strictness in examining papers. If the large failure is due to the first cause, the quality of school instruction ought to be improved. The examiners, however, who know best, should tell the public plainly why the percentage of failure is so large this year.

ARYA DARPAN,
May 10th, 1889.

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, says that the moral character of the students of the Burdwan Raj College is simply abominable. There is no exaggeration whatever in the remark made a few months ago by a high officer of Government regarding these students that "most of the prostitutes of Burdwan are especially fed by the students." Many of these students are also addicted to drinking.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1889.

The result of the University examinations.

13. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, has the following on the subject of the last Calcutta University examinations:—

SAHACHAR,
May 15th, 1889.

The result of the last Entrance Examination is most disappointing, only 24 per cent. of the candidates have passed that examination, and 24 per cent. is a smaller percentage than any other attained since the foundation of the University. It is rumoured that this large failure is due to the strictness with which the examiners, especially those in History and Geography, conducted the examination, and that most of those who have failed have failed in those two subjects. If this be so, surely the examiners in those subjects must be said to have carried their strictness too far. It is hardly

proper for any examiner to be hard upon the boys who appear at the Entrance Examination. In the London University, the examiners are never severe upon candidates appearing at the Matriculation examination, 50 per cent. generally pass that examination.

There is no reason why the same should not be the case here also. The extraordinarily large percentage of failure this year may possibly be accounted for on the supposition that the instruction given to boys in schools in this country is very inefficient, and that the state of education in the country is very low. But as such a supposition would not be warranted by fact, the Chancellor and the Senate of the Calcutta University should appoint a Commission to enquire into the cause of this failure.

Two thousand candidates appeared at the F. A. Examination and only 715 have passed. This shows that the F. A. candidates also were not treated with the leniency to which they were entitled.

PRAJA BANDHU,
May 17th, 1889.

14. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 17th May, concludes from the results of the University examinations that the examiners at those examinations do not properly do their work.

University education and the University examinations.

Many meritorious candidates are plucked at those examinations and many pass them who could never have been expected to pass. Again, it is a matter of daily observation that most of those who enter life, after passing the University examinations, are not fit for work of any kind. Surely, the University, which directs the education of the country, must be responsible for this state of things.

SAMAYA,
May 17th, 1889.

15. Referring to the question of the publication of the result of the B. A. degree examination in the *Sanjivani*

The *Sanjivani* newspaper and the results of the B.A. examination.

newspaper before its publication in other Bengali newspapers (see Weekly Report on Native Papers for week ending the 11th May, paragraph 17), the *Samaya*, of the 17th May, brings under discussion the *Sanjivani's* statement in reply that it got the list of successful candidates after 12 noon on Friday, the 26th April. Now, as the *Gazette of India* is published on Saturday, the *Sanjivani* could not have got it on Friday. And if it got it on Friday, it must have got it by unfair means. And if it denies that it got it by unfair means, it must be prepared also to deny that it got the *Gazette* that day.

Again, as the University authorities are not in the habit of selling the results of examinations, it is certain that the list in question was not procured from them. The *Sanjivani* says that it did not get the list either from the late Brahmo Registrar of the University or from any Brahmo member of the Syndicate, but got it in a lawful way through the kind offices of a friend. If so, the question arises how that friend could get the list for it? And then arises the further question why the *Sanjivani* was unable to get the Entrance list through the same agency and to publish it in the same manner. Was it because Mr. Tawney is now Registrar?

SULABH SAMACHAR O-
KUSHDAHA,
May 17th, 1889.

16. The *Sulabh Samachar o Kushdaha*, of the 17th May, says that

The results of examinations in the Presidency Circle.

the scholarship lists of the Middle English and Upper Primary Examinations in the Burdwan, Rajshahye and other divisions, have been published, but not even the results of those examinations in the Presidency circle have yet been published. Cannot people conclude from this that Rai Radhikaprasanna Mukherjee is neglecting his duties? Teachers, students and guardians are all eagerly awaiting the publication of the results.

BANGABASI,
May 18th, 1889.

17. The *Bangabasi*, of the 18th May, says that the results of the Entrance and First Arts Examinations this year are very unsatisfactory. The plucking of the candidates in the two examinations is

The results of the Entrance and First Arts Examinations.

like the uprooting of plantain trees in a storm. There is weeping and sighing on all sides, as if a great calamity has befallen the nation.

18. A correspondent of the *Grāmvasī*, of the 18th May, says that the system of awarding scholarships to boys passing the Middle English and Middle Vernacular Examinations from schools in the district

Middle school scholarships in the district of Howrah.

of Howrah has been suddenly changed this year. There were hitherto two scholarships for boys passing the Middle Vernacular Examination, and one for boys passing the Middle English Examination. But this year all the three scholarships have been awarded on a different principle, namely, according to the number of marks obtained by the boys, irrespective of the examinations at which they appeared. And the result has been that all the three scholarships have this year been gained by boys from Middle English Schools. If this method of awarding the scholarships is followed in future years, middle vernacular schools will get no scholarships at all, and as a consequence there will be a gradual abolition of middle vernacular schools in the district, and with the abolition of these schools the cause of the Bengali language and vernacular education will suffer.

GRAMVASI,
May 18th, 1889.

19. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 20th May, is glad to learn that the local and provincial Governments have at last asked the opinion of the Government of India

Moral education in Indian schools.

on the subject of introducing moral education in the schools of this country, and suggests that a book containing the lives of those Hindu gentlemen who have led exemplary lives should be adopted as moral text-books in the schools and colleges of India. It is hoped that Government will give the proposal its best consideration.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 20th, 1889.

20. The same paper says that the result of the last Entrance Examination is most disappointing. Out of 7000 candidates who appeared at the examination,

The last Entrance Examination.

only 1,474 have passed. Unless the Syndicate takes steps to insure a more careful examination of the answer-papers of the candidates at this examination, this result is likely to repeat itself year after year. The number of candidates who have failed this year is about 5,000, and as most of these will appear at the next Entrance Examination, the number of candidates next year will probably be double 10,000. And with such an enormous number of examinees, it should be easy to conceive what the mismanagement and confusion in the examination next year will be.

SOM PRAKASH.

21. The *Dainik o Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 21st May, says, on the strength of the *Hindu Patriot* newspaper, that Sir Alfred Croft, Director of Public Instruction, has made a rule under which no

A ruling of the Director of Public Instruction.

Deputy Inspector of Schools will henceforward be allowed to remain more than five years in one district, except in special cases, where a different arrangement might be made. But are special cases intended to cover the cases of favoured officers? Again, why should not the rule apply also to Inspectors of Schools? A rule not impartially framed must work mischief.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 21st, 1889.

The last University Examinations.

22. The *Sānti*, of the 22nd May, thus remarks on the result of the last University examinations:—

SANTI,
May 22nd, 1889.

Nearly 7,000 candidates appeared at the last Entrance Examination, and out of them only 1,475 have passed. This result has taken many by surprise, and will be astounding to all who hear of it. A result so deplorable in the Entrance Examination there never was before since the foundation of the Calcutta University. Some say that the result of the Entrance Examination is becoming unsatisfactory with the multiplication of money-making schools in the country. They that hold this view

argue that the managers of such schools often send up to the examination, for the sake of fees, boys who have not passed the test examination of other schools, and who have no chance of passing, and that these bad boys swell the number of the slain at the examination. But it is perfectly clear that this is no explanation whatever of the extraordinarily large failure of this year. For although the practice of sending up bad boys has been in existence for several years, the result was never so bad as it is this year, the percentage of success not having been less than 40 in any year previous to 1889.

It may be still argued that the proportion of bad boys in the examination was larger this year than in any previous year. To this it may be replied (1) that there is no evidence to prove that it was so, and (2) that the failure will remain unaccounted for even if the number of bad boys this year is assumed to be so much as double the number of bad boys in any previous year.

But the explanation, bad as it is, cannot possibly apply to the result of the last F.A. Examination—715 passed candidates out of 2,000—the worst F.A. result seen for some time past. For money-making schools and money-seeking school masters and school managers have nothing to do with the selection of candidates for the F.A. Examination.

The general belief is, that these results are due to incompetency, inefficiency and erroneous assignment of marks on the part of the examiners. The practice of appointing inexperienced men as examiners, on the strength of recommendation, has probably a great deal to answer for in this respect.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

ARYAVARTA,
May 11th, 1889.

23. The *Aryavarta*, of the 11th May, says that the butchers of Mechuabazar Street used to molest Hindus returning from their bath in the river by throwing pieces of meat on their bodies. A case was brought by a Hindu, and the keeping of butchers' shops in Mechuabazar Street was prohibited. But butchers' shops have been again opened there. The keeping of even Hindus' meat stalls on the streets is objectionable.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
May 13th, 1889.

The farming of cattle-pounds.

24. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 13th May, says that the system of farming cattle-pounds is a source of great hardship to the people, for the farmers of cattle-pounds seek to make profit by unfair means.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1889.

The duty of the District Board of Burdwan in regard to scarcity of water in that district.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, asks the District Board of Burdwan to take steps, without delay, to remove scarcity of water from places within its jurisdiction. The Board should find out the places where such scarcity exists, and cause new tanks to be excavated or old ones to be re-excavated in those places. As almost every village in Bengal has got tanks, the Board will hardly be under the necessity of excavating new tanks. It will simply have to select old tanks for re-excavation, to buy them up from their owners, and to re-excavate them at its own expense; and after the tanks have been re-excavated, it will have to make a rule restricting their use only to drinking purposes.

As the unassisted efforts of the Board will not be able to do much in the matter, it should induce private individuals to take up the same work by promising to pay them a portion of the expenditure which they may incur either in excavating new tanks or in re-excavating old ones.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

26. A correspondent of the same paper says that, notwithstanding repeated applications to the Town Council of Ranigunge, the slaughter-house situated in the middle of the Hindu quarter of that town has not been removed. The

members of the Town Council probably know that crows and kites often throw pieces of bone and flesh picked up in the slaughter-house into the houses of the Hindu residents. How do they therefore still allow themselves to be influenced by considerations of friendship in this matter? It is also rumoured that the slaughter-house has not yet been assessed to the license-tax. There must be some mystery in this.

27. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, is astonished that it was only a majority of four that defeated the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality on the question of the lease of the Kotrung brickfields; for this means that many Commissioners assist the Chairman in doing illegal acts, and it is so everywhere. The writer is gradually losing his confidence in Local Self-Government.

SAHACHAR,
May 15th, 1889.

28. The *Samaya*, of the 17th May, deeply regrets to learn that in consequence of a quarrel between Baboo Mahendra Nath Chatterjee, Vice-Chairman of the Berhampore Municipality, and some of the Commissioners of that municipality, over a purely private matter, the Commissioners have divided themselves into hostile parties, and that when any proposal is brought before the Municipal Board by a person belonging to one party, the members of the parties opposed to it consider it their duty to oppose it, no matter whether it is good or bad. In consequence of this state of things, the business of the Municipality has been for some time at a standstill. The Commissioners of the Municipality ought to bear in mind that they are sacrificing public interests for the sake of a quarrel which is strictly private, and that they owe it to themselves and to their country to remove without delay the blot they are thus casting upon their own names; for, if other municipalities imitate their conduct, Government will have good reason to think that the country is not yet fit for Local Self-Government.

SAMAYA,
May 17th, 1889.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

29. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, in taking exception to a recent order of the Board of Revenue, according to which Regulation VIII of 1819 will not apply to a putni created by one *putta*, and consisting of two mehals included in two distinct towjies, observes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1889.

It will appear, on enquiry, that zemindars have created such putnies in the past and availed themselves of the provisions of the putni regulation for the purpose of realising the putni rent. And as the creation of such putnis does in no way injure the interests of Government, which can always put a defaulting towji to sale, and as the purchaser of such a towji can always make all the mehals included in the towji his *khas* property, the present order of the Board is clearly unnecessary and uncalled for. By issuing this order, the members of the Board have furnished clear evidence of their gross ignorance of the customs of the country.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

30. A correspondent of the *Cháru Vártá*, of the 13th May, complains that the new road from Itna to Bodla has been constructed by the contractor in a most perfunctory manner. He has done nothing in fact except marking out the road at two or three places by furrowing the ground on two sides. The chowkidars who go to Bodla thana, the dák-runner who travels between Itna and Bodla, and the overseer of the

CHARUVARTA,
May 13th, 1889.

postal line, will speak to this if referred to. Thus the sum of 150 rupees granted by the late Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona for this road has been simply wasted. Some money was sanctioned once before by Moulvie Fazlal Karim, the then Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona, for this road. But on that occasion, too, nothing was done except marking out the road at some places, and the money then sanctioned was also wasted. It is surprising that although money was thus twice wasted, no Government officer came on either of those occasions to inspect the road.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 20th, 1889.

31. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 20th May, complains that the two steamers plying between Goalundo and Naraingunge, which formerly used to reach Naraingunge at 5 o'clock in the afternoon every day, do not now reach that place till 10 or 11 A.M. on the following day. This delays the delivery of mails from Calcutta and causes great inconvenience to passengers in general, and specially to Hindu passengers who have to remain without food for a day and a half. It is true that this delay in the arrival of the steamers is due to stress of weather. But Government can remedy this evil by employing larger steamers to ply between the two places. Government derives a large profit from this steamer traffic, and it can therefore easily carry out this recommendation.

The small steamer which used to ply between Naraingunge and Kamla ghât has been disabled by a storm. People are suffering great inconvenience on that account. The authorities should soon remove this inconvenience.

(h)—General.

SANSODHINI,
May 12th, 1889.

32. The *Sansodhini*, of the 12th May, says that, when in Chittagong, Sir Steuart Bayley showed the greatest affability during his visits to the local schools. Indeed, Sir Steuart's manners are as gentle as his reputation is great. Sir Steuart is gentle in disposition and a well-wisher of the people, and everyone was satisfied with his behaviour. But his statement regarding the Noabad settlement, in his reply to the address of the people of Chittagong, has caused sorrow in every heart. It was because the people of Chittagong are suffering hard and sorely that they spoke to His Honour about their grievances, and Sir Steuart would have done well not to have taken any notice of any impropriety in the language used by them in their address. Sir Steuart has very distinctly stated what he means to do. And this is good; for Government often holds out promises which it has no intention of fulfilling. It is gratifying to note that performances under Sir Steuart Bayley's Government do not fall short of professions. May God grant Sir Steuart health and happiness!

33. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, sees no cause for dissatisfaction in the recent Resolution of Government on the subject of the appointment of Deputy Magistrates. A competitive examination requiring of the candidate only a knowledge of English, History and Mathematics, does not always ensure the selection of the best men. Nevertheless, it will be a great mistake to appoint men without culture and education as Deputy Magistrates, merely on the strength of recommendations. The fittest men are likely to be found by keeping in sight at the time of selection the educational qualifications and the family connections and the business capacity of the candidates. Government may also in this matter of appointing Deputy Magistrates follow with advantage the English practice of selecting judicial officers from among the ranks of lawyers.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1889.

The Subordinate Executive Service
Resolution.

SAHACHAR,
May 15th, 1889.

34. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, says that, in his reply to the addresses presented to him by different public bodies in Chittagong, dwelling on the necessity of extending the Chittagong railway line

The financial policy of the Government of India.

to Calcutta and Dacca, Sir Steuart Bayley said that it was the financial policy of the Government of India that works necessary for local improvement should be done with money raised from local sources or by local taxation. As the proposed railway extension is not required for military purposes—some such purpose, that is, as the pacification of Upper Burma—the Imperial Government, it is certain, will not undertake it. For it must be observed with regret that very few railways have been, up to this time, constructed with the sole object of improving the commerce and the general condition of the country. As regards the Provincial Governments, which have recently contributed nearly two crores of rupees to the Imperial treasury, it is clear that they too will be unable to undertake the work. There are, again, no municipalities in the country rich enough to undertake it. Will, then, the money required for the work be raised by taxing the people of Chittagong? His Honour's statement on the subject is not very explicit. His Honour has talked of the financial policy of the Government of India. As a matter of fact, however, that Government has no fixed and consistent financial policy at all. One Finance Minister enunciates one financial policy only to see it abandoned by another. Major Baring was opposed to the levy of an income-tax, and, while abolishing the import duties, said that sudden emergencies in the future might be met by increasing the duty on salt. But Major Baring's successor, Sir Auckland Colvin, upset all that, and re-established the income-tax, not in an emergency, but in a time of profound peace. Lord Lytton levied a license-tax ostensibly for the purpose of creating a Famine Insurance Fund; but a year after its imposition he applied all its proceeds to the general purposes of the Empire; and the railway line at Sibi, the fort at Quetta, and the palace at Simla, are works deeply indebted to this tax. The fort at Quetta and the Sibi line were built simply because some people thought that the only means of arresting the advance of Russia was stopping the Kandahar road. But that view is discarded, and people now think that Russia will come not by way of Kandahar, but through the Khyber Pass, and it is therefore necessary to erect forts in that Pass and in Peshawur. And every such change of opinion brings about a complete change in the financial policy of the Government of India.

35. The same paper says that, when civilians find themselves hard pressed, they take leave and go away, and that is precisely what Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye, has done. In ancient times,

SAHACHAR.

Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye.

Hindus in high life sought expiation for their sins in pilgrimage. And it is to be hoped that Mr. Phillips' pilgrimage to England will bring to him expiation for the sins he has committed. But the question will still remain whether a man is fit for any office under Government who cherishes so much anger and ill-feeling against the people of this country? Mr. Phillips is not only a bad man himself, but has spoiled many young civilians.

36. The *Samaya*, of the 17th May, does not know whether or not the English Factory Law has already come into force in India, but is certain that the agitation

SAMAYA,
May 17th, 1889.

Factory labour in India.

of the merchants of Manchester to get that law extended to this country has begun to take effect. The other day the manager of a Bombay cloth factory was fined 750 rupees for employing a boy under 12 years of age in his factory. Now, in this country boys of even four or five years of age among the poorer classes work for their living, and boys of 10 years of age are often employed by Municipalities to do very hard work. And Government sees nothing objectionable in all this. It objects only when infant

labour is employed in factories. Its interference in the matter of the employment of labour in the Indian factories will therefore result in the dismissal from work of a very large number of boys under the age of 12. But will Government do anything to provide them with other means of livelihood? The public of this country are now fully convinced that, in its anxiety to serve the interests of the merchants of Manchester, Government is determined to ruin the new cloth industry of India, and to throw its poor labouring population into a state of utter destitution.

SANJIVANI,
May 18th, 1889.

37. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th May, referring to the retrenchment made by the Governor of Bombay by the abolition of unnecessary posts and by the reduction of salaries, says that if every Provincial Governor makes retrenchments in this way, Government will not be under the necessity of increasing its revenue by increasing the tax on the poor Indian's salt.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI
May 20th, 1889.

38. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 20th May, is glad at the appointment of Baboo Pratul Chandra Chatterjea as an Acting Judge of the Punjab Chief Court, not because Baboo Pratul Chandra is a Bengali, but because Government has done honour to a deserving man. Not even the anti-native *Civil and Military Gazette* has been able to question the ability of Pratul Baboo. The only ground on which this appointment has been objected to is that a Bengali should not be appointed as a Judge of the Punjab Chief Court. But this objection has no force, considering that Sir Meredith Plowden, for whom Pratul Baboo has been appointed to officiate, was not himself a Punjabi.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
May 20th, 1889.

39. The *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 20th May, has the following:—

Sir Steuart Bayley left Calcutta for Darjeeling on Friday last. The writer has, it is true, always protested against the hill residence of the officials, but he can find nothing to object to in this departure of Sir Steuart Bayley for the hills. He sees nothing to object to in the residence of the ruler of the Provinces in the hills for two months in the year during the greatest heat. What he objects to is the residence of the rulers in the hills for ten months in the year, with the heads of all the departments and with a great many subordinate officers. It is very long since the other Indian Governors left for the hills. But Sir Steuart remained in Calcutta in this intense heat up to the other day, and went on a tour to Chittagong, and on his return from that place has only just now gone to the hills. The people are of course grateful to Sir Steuart for the hardship thus endured by him.

But there is a serious question demanding His Honour's attention. There is scarcity in many parts of Bengal and Behar. The Lieutenant-Governor has, it is true, already made arrangements for relief, but it is not very likely that those arrangements will be sufficient for the purpose. The condition of Behar is becoming worse every day, and reports are being received that the distress in Diamond Harbour is growing worse and worse.

The writer does not mean that Sir Steuart Bayley should leave the hills and remain in Calcutta in this intense heat. All that he wants is that His Honour should not remain content with entrusting the district officers with the charge of the relief arrangements. The manner in which Sir Steuart Bayley is governing Bengal does not, indeed, give rise to the apprehension that he will do any such thing; but the writer would still warn His Honour that he should closely watch the course of affairs from this time.

GAUHAR.
May 20th, 1889.

40. The *Gauhar*, of the 20th May, complains of the absence of punkhas in the mofussil post-offices. The want of sitting accommodation in post-offices for people who go

Some postal complaints.

there to have money-orders made out is keenly felt in Calcutta. Accommodation of this kind has been made in post-offices in the North-Western Provinces. Instead of the old charge of one pice, the charge of a fee of two pice, for filling in each money-order form is also keenly felt.

41. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 20th May, says that some excellent rules on the subject of clerical examinations were originally framed by Lord Ripon and afterwards revived by Lord Dufferin. And it is really unaccountable

The Clerkship Examination Resolution.

why, in his recent Resolution on the subject, the Lieutenant-Governor has adopted, not the original rules framed by Lord Ripon, but those which were subsequently adopted by Lord Dufferin; for some of these rules, and notably the one which permits heads of offices to select their own men without examination, are very objectionable, for no eligible candidates are likely to be obtained by nomination. Again, the rule in the Resolution, dispensing with examination in the case of domiciled Europeans and Eurasians, has taken the Editor by surprise, who never expected that the just Sir Steuart Bayley would make so invidious a distinction between natives on the one hand and Europeans and Eurasians on the other. There appears no reason, moreover, why an exception of this kind should be made in favour of the Eurasians, to whose intellectual worth the records of the Calcutta University give such damaging testimony. In conclusion, it is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will do his best to give appointments in the public service to the most eligible candidates, chosen by the competitive method, irrespective of considerations of caste, creed and colour.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 20th 1889.

42. The same paper has learnt that Mr. Cuthbertson, the acting Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, will officiate for Mr. Macaulay, the Financial Secretary, who is going away on leave. Mr. Cuthbertson

Mr. Cuthbertson as Officiating Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

is a new officer, and it is doubtful whether he has acquired sufficient experience even in the discharge of the duties of the Under-Secretaryship. It will therefore be a mistake to allow him to officiate for the Financial Secretary. If Government considers the duties of the Financial Secretary to be of so light a nature that they can be discharged by any new and subordinate officer, then it must be, as the *Mirror* says, that it keeps up the post of Financial Secretary merely for show.

SOM PRAKASH,

43. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 21st May, says that when Sir Charles Dilke was in India, he was able to perceive that the condition of the native army was not good, and that the native troops were not

The native army of Government.

in a condition to meet the troops of the European powers on terms of equality, and that a commission was required to investigate the matter and suggest remedial measures. Now as the defects of the native army are due solely to the policy of distrust which Government has adopted towards the natives, and not to any inherent defect in the physical and moral character of the men composing that army, no commission can be expected to set the matter right. Let Government only give up its policy of distrust, and give to its native troops, the very same arms and instructions which it gives to its European troops, and all the defects and shortcomings of its native army will disappear. But Government will never have the courage to do this, and its native army will never attain to a higher state of efficiency.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 21st, 1889.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

44. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th May, thus writes on the condition of the crops throughout the province of Bengal:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1889.

Condition of the crops throughout Bengal.

The month of Baisakh, noted for its nor'-westers, has passed away without rain. The rivers, khals, beels, and tanks

have all dried up. The cultivators are in despair. The *teel* crop has dried up for want of rain. The condition of the cotton crop is no better. The sugarcane stalks are drying up. The prospect of the *Aus* crop is very bad. Everywhere in Bengal the prices of articles of food have risen, and famine and scarcity have already made their appearance in some places. The past year was one of bad harvests, and the prospect is not very bright this year.

SANACHAR,
May 15th, 1889.

45. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, has learnt that the distress prevailing in the villages within the jurisdiction of the thanas Bankipore, Muthurapore and Kulpi, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is about to assume a fearful form. The people of these parts are chiefly agriculturists, and last year's failure of the crops gave rise to the apprehension that there would be distress amongst them about this time this year. And what was apprehended has come about. The price of rice in these parts has become so high that many people cannot buy it and are literally starving. There has been already death from starvation, and if timely measures of relief are not instituted a large number of people will die of inanition. The work of relief which the District Board commenced some time ago had to be stopped for want of funds, and if the public does not render prompt and liberal help to these unfortunate people things will take a serious turn among them. It is also hoped that Government will not be slow in adopting measures for putting down this distress.

SANACHAR.

46. A correspondent of the same paper says that scarcity of a severe form has made its appearance in the Bhola sub-division. The price of rice has risen to $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per maund. On Monday and Tuesday last no rice could be had even for money in the *hâts* at Guramiya and Gajipara. The poor have taken to begging, and *budmashes* are setting fire to the houses of those who would not sell their stored rice and paddy. And to complete the misery, Government tehsildars and haoldars are, with the assistance of police constables and Magistrate's peons, forcibly taking away the draught cattle of the ryots without taking out certificates against them. Agricultural operations are therefore at a standstill.

PRATIKAR,
May 17th, 1889.

47. The *Pratikar*, of the 17th May, says that it is not in the power of Government to prevent the injury that drought can cause to the crops, but it is certainly within its power to prevent such damage as is done by floods. If the crops sown in Jaistha are destroyed by floods, the situation will really become serious for both Government and the people. No time should therefore be lost by Government in making embankments at the places which are likely to be flooded during the rains.

SULABH-SAMACHAR
O-KUSHDAHA,
May 17th, 1889.

48. The *Sulabh Samachar-o-Kushdaha*, of the 17th May, refers to a case of murder in Jagatsingapore, by a man rendered desperate by starvation, which is reported in the *Utkal Dipikâ*, and asks whether Government will still maintain that there is no scarcity in Orissa.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 22nd, 1889.

49. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrikâ*, of the 22nd May, says that now that Government has called for a report on the distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, Mr. Smith, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, has commenced to enquire. But if the adoption of relief measures is put off till the conclusion of this enquiry, a great many people will die of starvation. Government should therefore commence measures of relief without delay. And if it does not take the initiative in this matter, no private help will be forthcoming. Mr. Smith should also act with promptitude.

Distress prevails also in Tirhoot and Behar, where coarse rice is selling at 10 seers per rupee. If the construction of the projected railways is undertaken now, the suffering people may obtain some relief. When the Lieutenant-Governor made his tour through the afflicted tracts of Behar, many people expressed the hope that there was and there would be no more fears for that part of the country. But knowing, as it does, the character of Government officials in this country, and their habit of writing rose-coloured reports on famine and scarcity, this paper was unable to entertain any such expectation; for it was able to discern thick dark lines even between the rose-coloured lines of the reports which the officials then submitted to Government on the condition of the distressed people of Behar.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th May, says that rainfall is gradually becoming scantier in Bengal. Even in the

SAHACHAR,
May 15th, 1889.

Decreased rainfall in India.

Hill Tracts of Chittagong rainfall is now less

than what it was 20 years ago. When rainfall became scanty in France in the reign of the Emperor Napoleon III, scientific men ascribed the fact to the indiscriminate destruction of forests. From that time steps have been taken to preserve forests in that country. And all other European countries have followed the example of France. The Government of India has also a Forest Department, whose duty it is to preserve forests and to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of trees. But here the object of creating the department is revenue, and so on payment of a fee a man can cut down any number of trees he likes. Besides the officers of the department are not sufficiently alive to their duties. Thus, notwithstanding the stringency of the forest regulations, forests are gradually disappearing from the country. Lastly, the people of the country, in their ignorance of the value of trees, often destroy trees without rearing new ones in their place. Be that as it may, it is a fact that there is now more heat and less rainfall in the country, and Government ought to appoint a Commission to ascertain the cause of this. For though, in consequence of the increase of heat and decreased rainfall, the climate of the country has improved; still the cause of agriculture has greatly suffered, and calls for remedial measures without delay.

51. The *Pratikar*, of the 17th May, says that more than one hundred deaths from cholera have taken place in

PRATIKAR,
May, 17th 1889.

Unhealthiness of Berhampore town.

Berhampore within the last few weeks. This

is owing to the general unhealthiness of the town, which is traceable to four causes. The first cause consists in Government's allowing a number of hollows full of offensive matter to exist within its khas mehals. In the cold season, when there is no water in these hollows, they become full of rank vegetation, which rots during the rains and creates disease all round. No attempt has yet been made to fill up these holes, and the officers of the Sanitary Department, who draw large salaries, pay no attention to the matter. The Bishunpore *beel* is the second cause. The southern part of this *beel* receives a wholesome supply of Ganges water every year; but its northern part receives no such supply, and therefore contains noxious vegetation which affects the public health. Last year the *beel* was partially cleared, but the putrid aquatic plants were deposited on the banks of the *beel*, and found their way again into the *beel* when its water rose in the rainy season. The Sanitary Commissioner has personally witnessed the condition of this *beel*, but has ventured to propose no arrangement for clearing it, because any arrangement that may be made for the purpose will involve a large expenditure of money. The fence works in the river begin at Berhampore and consisting as they do of mats, ropes and bamboos which decompose and pollute the water, constitute the third cause.

The fourth cause will be found in the apathy of the Municipal Commissioners of Berhampore. The activity of the Commissioners is of a spasmodic nature. They once commenced filling up holes in right earnest, but their zeal soon vanished. There was also at one time a proposal to construct drains, and drainage work was actually commenced; but the matter soon came to a stop. The Commissioners have, in fact, no fixity of purpose, and municipal money is being wasted under their management.

The local native engineers should consider whether water-pipes can be laid in Berhampore, and if water-pipes cannot be laid, two large tanks should be constructed, whose water should be used only for drinking purposes.

If the local gentry do not attend to this very important concern of theirs the District Magistrate should himself stir in the matter.

SANJIVANI.
May 18th, 1889.

52. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th May, says that, although India was never so well governed as it is under English rule, Englishmen are not still loved by the

Englishmen and Natives.

people of this country. This is because the English are a haughty people, who look down upon the people of this country as so many head of cattle. Kicks and blows, caning and whipping, from Englishmen have become almost every day occurrences in Indian life. The Editor of the *Tribune* recently witnessed two such cases of maltreatment. In the first case an Englishman, who was driving in a carriage with his wife, struck with a whip a native rider who fell in their way to the infinite delight of the lady, who loudly laughed at the spectacle. In the second case a Eurasian kicked a poor native out of a railway station. The Indian's blood dries up at the sight of an Englishman, and that is why Englishmen treat them so insolently. Englishmen will then learn good manners when natives will return kick for kick and then only will the foundation of the British Empire in India be really strong.

GRAMVASI.
May 18th, 1889.

53. A correspondent of the *Gramvasi*, of the 18th May, brings the following charges against Baboo Lalchand Palit, a patnidar of Orkuli, within the Uluberia sub-division :—

Charges against a talukdar in the Howrah district.

1. The patnidar often refuses to give printed dakhilas to his ryots, who are accordingly compelled to be satisfied with written receipts.
2. The rate of road cess and public works cess is two pice per rupee everywhere, but the patnidar takes four pice per rupee.
3. The patnidar has no gomasta, and collects rent himself. Still he often charges on his ryots collection expenses at a high rate.
4. He increases the rents of his ryots every year on one pretext or another.
5. He often gives credit to his ryots for less rent than is actually paid by them, the difference often being so much as Rs. 10.

The Government officials should enquire into these charges.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 19th, 1889.

54. The *Dainik o Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th May, says that Mr. Phillips has shown great folly and indiscretion in publishing his letter of defence in

Mr. Phillips.

the *Englishman*. It cannot be believed that the Lieutenant-Governor gave him permission to publish such a letter. The writer feels alarmed on reading this mad letter, and he is alarmed, not on account of Rajshahye, nor on account of Rajah Jogendro Nath, but on account of Mr. Phillips himself, whose brain seems to be crazed. Mr. Phillips is going home on leave. He will do well not to return to this hot country.

URIYA PAPERS.

55. The *Oria and Navasamvād*, of the 24th April, describes the privations and hardships to which passengers *viā* the Orissa Coast Canal are subjected several times

The Orissa Canal Service.

ORIA AND NAVASAMVAD,
April 24th, 1889.

in the year. As an illustration, it refers to the irregular nature of the trips that were performed between the 2nd and the 13th April last. The canal service is now performed by two Companies jointly, one plying between Calcutta and Nalkali and the other between Nalkali and Cuttack. It often so happens that the steamers of each Company do not reach Nalkali at the appointed hours, and passengers are therefore kept waiting at that dreary and uncomfortable station for hours together, having neither decent sheds to put up in nor good food to eat. The writer insists that these inconveniences ought to be removed without delay, that the Companies ought to build at important stations along their line, especially at Nalkali, decent and comfortable sheds for the accommodation of passengers, who may be compelled, by an untoward course of events, to wait there long, and that two steamers ought to ply between Calcutta and Nalkali instead of one as at present.

Steamer service in the Orissa Coast Canal.

56. The *Utkaldipikā*, of the 4th May, makes the following remarks and suggestions

UTKALDIPIKĀ,
May 4th, 1889.

on the same subject:—

“Sir Ashley Eden, in a public speech at Cuttack, declared that the coast canal would enable people to reach Calcutta from Cuttack in 48 hours, *i.e.*, two days. But what is the fact? The journey takes a considerably longer time. It takes from four to eight days to arrive at Calcutta. Much inconvenience and discomfort is therefore felt by passengers, and the humane intentions of Government are defeated. Now who is to blame for this state of things? Certainly the Company or Companies that have undertaken the passenger traffic. When the canal was first opened, there was one Company (Messrs Hoare, Miller and Company) making a through voyage, but now we have two Companies, one of them, the India General Steam Navigation Company, undertaking the first half of the journey, and the other the second half. Passengers have now to disembark at Nalkali, the midway station, and to again get on board the Calcutta steamer. There is transhipment again at Gewankhali. People are often required to halt at these two stations for hours pending the arrival of the different steam-launches. Thus, with three transhipments and long halts at two stations, and want of good food on the way, the discomforts of passengers exceed all limits. If it is meant to make the line really successful, the following suggestions ought to be carried out:—

1. Through journey without break.
2. Service twice during the week. If a single Company cannot undertake both the services, two Companies may, but each Company should conduct through service. The service will pay its way. There is no fear of loss if the service is through, quick and successful.
3. Time of journey should not exceed 48 hours, as originally intended. With through service the time will not be longer.
4. Steam-launches should have sufficient accommodation for first-class, second-class, and third-class passengers.
5. Stalls for the supply of good rice, mustard-oil, ghee, vegetables, dāl and other things should be supplied at Alpa, Charbatia and Nalkali.

“The Companies have by this time gained sufficient experience to understand that if the journey be through and takes less time than the

Onandbali route, passengers will flock to the Coast Canal. Already it is believed that they are making a clear return of about Rs. 500 per trip. With successful working the amount is expected to be much larger."

All the native papers of the weeks under review speak despondingly of the want of rain, of the terribly hot weather, and the consequent want of drinking-water in a large number of villages in the Orissa Province—topics now being most talked upon among the people in general.

UTKAL DIPIKA.
April 27th, 1889.

57. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 27th April and the 4th May, regrets to note that the price of rice is increasing rapidly, that a large number of houseless beggars are crowding

Scarcity in Orissa.

into the Cuttack town, that food has become scarce in certain parts of the Orissa Province, and that, as a consequence of scarcity, horrible crimes are perpetrated which otherwise would never have seen the light. The paper gives a certain number of cases in support of this statement, and then expresses wonder at the sceptical mood of the authorities, who, instead of admitting the existence of scarcity in the face of facts and figures, generally turn round and express displeasure when any representation to that effect is made to them.

UTKALDIPIKA.

58. The same paper is satisfied with the results of the Middle English and Middle Vernacular examinations of the Orissa Division for 1888-89. The results contrast favourably with those of the preceding year, though there has been a falling off in the number of competing candidates.

The results of the middle examinations in Orissa.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
April 13th, 1889.

59. A correspondent of the *Paridarshak*, of the 13th April, says that the produce of the hills is in demand among all classes of people in Assam, and the poor, in particular, cannot do without it. But as every one who would go to the hills for hill produce is required to take a Government pass on payment of a fee of one rupee, the majority of poor people, who are unable to pay the fee, cannot get hill produce. They are, however, in spite of this, compelled by poverty to go to the hills, and when they do so they are often apprehended by the forest guards, and have to suffer great hardship if they cannot bribe the guards. And the guards, in the hope of getting more bribes, have commenced apprehending innocent people: from whom they extort money by detaining them for the whole day and by threatening to make them over to the police. This provision about passes works special hardship among a class of people called the Dhulis who inhabit Sylhet, and whose condition is even worse than that of the coolies in the tea-gardens. They cannot obtain passes and cannot do without going to the hills. Passes can indeed be obtained at a small cost from the Chowdhuri of Vishunpore. But those who hold such passes can get only small bamboos, *lakuri*, and *ikar*. Formerly one pass could be used by all the members of a joint family. But that rule is abolished. These hardships of the poor will exist so long as the forest rules are not changed. The authorities do not perhaps know to what great oppression the people are subjected. They should therefore attend to the matter. The greedy Government only cares for taxes, and is utterly indifferent to the welfare of the people.

The working of the forest rules in Sylhet.

PARIDARSHAK.

60. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the health of Shillong is gradually deteriorating. The municipality should therefore pay particular

Public health in Shillong.

attention to the health of the town. Many places in the native quarter are full of filth, but the municipality does not attend to the matter. For

some months past the jail authorities have been depositing all the refuse of the town in a place behind the jail which is too near to human habitations, and foul gases from this accumulated refuse is doing great injury to the health of the inhabitants of the jail road. If the Jail Superintendent, Baboo Jeeban Raya, does not make arrangements for the deposit of refuse at some other place, it will become the duty of the inhabitants of the jail road to petition the Chief Commissioner on the subject.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th May 1889.

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